



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GOVERNOR ORDERS STATEWIDE BRIDGE REVIEW
Arizona's Current Grade is A-

PHOENIX – The American Society of Civil Engineers gives Arizona an overall grade of A- for highway bridge safety. Yet, in light of the tragedy that occurred yesterday in Minnesota, Governor Janet Napolitano has asked Director Victor Mendez of the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for a fresh review.

“While there is comfort in knowing we have an excellent assessment right now, I want to make the extra effort to ensure that our freeway bridges are safe,” said the Governor.

The review will focus initially on highly traveled bridges in large urban areas. Ultimately, the agency will take another close look at all bridges on the State Bridge Inventory. An initial report on the high-traffic areas is due to the Governor no later than September 7, 2007.

According to ADOT, Arizona's bridges have annually rated as among the best in the nation. The American Society of Civil Engineers' latest rankings show Arizona and Nevada are the leading states in bridge safety ratings. Key reasons for Arizona's strong ratings include our dry climate and the relatively young age of many structures, many of which have been built as part of the Phoenix region's freeway construction program.

ADOT Director Victor Mendez said, “Arizona drivers can have confidence in the structural condition of state bridges. There are 4,720 interstate and state highway bridges in Arizona, and we conduct inspections on state highway bridges every two years.”

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